

BY REPRESENTATIVE RITCHIE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create the Louisiana Rural Economic Development Initiative Program Study Committee

3 to study the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive Rural Economic

4 Development Initiative Program to provide members of all Louisiana communities

5 the opportunity to establish and operate economically viable and sustainable local

6 food- and energy-related business enterprises.

7 WHEREAS, there is an enormous opportunity for meaningful and sustainable

8 economic development in Louisiana and a large market share to be gained by focusing on

9 adding value to Louisiana produced, processed, packaged, marketed, and utilized sources

10 of food and bio-fuels; and

11 WHEREAS, according to current statistics posted by the USDA's Economic

12 Research Service, less than one-half of one percent of the food consumed by Louisiana's 4.3

13 million citizens is produced in Louisiana; and

14 WHEREAS, the citizens, businesses, and state of Louisiana need a sustainable rural

15 food- and energy-focused agricultural- and forestry-based economic development plan that

16 encompasses all sixty-four parishes of the state; and

17 WHEREAS, in order to achieve this highly desirable result, legislation is required

18 to set in motion the utilization of the seven existing Resource, Conservation, and

19 Development Councils of Louisiana (RC & D's), through the Louisiana Association of RC

20 & D Councils, to organize and administer marketing strategies in such a way as to advance

21 the concept and practice of Louisiana citizens consuming local foods and utilizing locally

1 produced energy, with a focus on a larger percentage of the food and bio-energy products  
2 produced in the state to be consumed and utilized in Louisiana; and

3 WHEREAS, a study committee shall be created with the following objectives:

4 (1) To identify a dedicated funding source for a period of not less than ten  
5 consecutive years, beginning in 2011 or earlier in the amount of \$1 million per parish, per  
6 year.

7 (2) To formulate the plans and budgets for the Louisiana Association of RC & D  
8 Councils to implement and administer the plan using guidelines from similar programs  
9 developed in other states such as Kentucky and Tennessee.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
11 create the Louisiana Rural Economic Development Initiative Program Study Committee to  
12 study the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive Rural Economic Development Initiative  
13 Program to provide members of all Louisiana communities the opportunity to establish and  
14 operate economically viable and sustainable local food- and energy-related business  
15 enterprises.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall be comprised of the  
17 following members:

18 (1) The secretary of the Department of Economic Development or his designee.

19 (2) The commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee.

20 (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture,  
21 and Rural Development or his designee.

22 (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture,  
23 and Rural Development or his designee.

24 (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations or his designee.

25 (6) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance or his designee.

26 (7) The president of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation or his designee.

27 (8) The chancellor of the LSU AgCenter or his designee.

28 (9) The chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center or his designee.

29 (10) The president of the Louisiana Forestry Association or his designee.

30 (11) The president of the Louisiana Cattlemen's Association or his designee.

1           (12) The chairman of the Louisiana Vegetables and Fruit Growers Association or  
2 his designee.

3           (13) The executive director of the AgriBusiness Council of Louisiana or his  
4 designee.

5           (14) The president of the Louisiana Association of RC & D Councils or his designee.

6           (15) The chairman of each of the seven Louisiana RC & D Councils or his designee.

7           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a written report of the committee's findings and  
8 conclusions, including any recommendations for legislation relative to the issue, be  
9 submitted to the legislature no later than sixty days prior to the start of the 2011 Regular  
10 Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Ritchie

HCR No. 173

Creates the La. Rural Economic Development Initiative Program Study Committee to study the feasibility of establishing a comprehensive Rural Economic Development Initiative Program, and to report its findings sixty days prior to the 2011 R.S. Composes the study committee as follows:

- (1) The secretary of the Dept. of Economic Development or his designee.
- (2) The commissioner of the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee.
- (3) The chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development.
- (4) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Aquaculture, and Rural Development.
- (5) The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations or his designee.
- (6) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance or his designee.
- (7) The president of the La. Farm Bureau Federation or his designee.
- (8) The chancellor of the LSU AgCenter or his designee.
- (9) The chancellor of the Southern University Ag Center or his designee.
- (10) The president of the La. Forestry Association or his designee.
- (11) The president of the La. Cattlemen's Association or his designee.
- (12) The chairman of the La. Vegetables and Fruit Growers Association or his designee.

- (13) The executive director of the AgriBusiness Council of La. or his designee.
- (14) The president of the La. Association of RC & D Councils or his designee.
- (15) The chairman of each of the seven La. RC & D Councils or his designee.